

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

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TAGS: PFOR, AIR

SUBJ: MALIAN INTEREST IN PROCURING AIRCRAFT

1. SOME WEEKS AGO REP FROM LOCKHEED-MARIETTA VISITED BAMAKO TO DISCUSS WITH MINISTER OF DEFENSE, DOUKARA, THE POSSIBILITY OF MALIAN PROCUREMENT OF A CIVILIAN VERSION OF A STRETCH C-130 (HERCULES). THE LOCKHEED REP LEFT A COMPLETE PROPOSAL, INCLUDING TRAINING, WITH DOUKARA FOR A COST OF \$12-14 MILLION. DOUKARA WAS VISIBLY SHAKEN BY THIS FIGURE AND SAID HE WOULD HAVE TO DISCUSS MEANS OF FINANCING WITH ME.

2. SUBSEQUENT TO THE VISIT OF THE LOCKHEED-MARIETTA PEOPLE, PRESIDENT OF WORLD AIRWAYS, EDWARD DALY, VISITED BAMAKO. DURING THEIR DISCUSSIONS IN BAMAKO, DALY MENTIONED TO DOUKARA THAT SURPLUS' HELICOPTERS AND C-54'S WERE BECOMING AVAILABLE FROM SOUTHEAST ASIA. DALY TOLD DOUKARA THAT IN HIS VIEW THE C-54 WOULD SERVE MALI'S NEEDS ALMOST AS WELL AS THE C-130 AND WOULD BE AVAILABLE AT A SUBSTANTIALLY LOWER PRICE.

3. FOLLOWING DALY'S VISIT, I CALLED UPON DOUKARA AT HIS REQUEST. HE OUTLINED THE FOREGOING CONSIDERATIONS AND SAID THAT HIS FIRST PREFERENCE WOULD BE A C-130 BUT THAT HE WAS IN NO
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POSITION TO PAY FOR IT. SECOND PREFERENCE WOULD BE SOME

HELICOPTERS BUT IF THEY WERE UNAVAILABLE HE WOULD WISH TO INVESTIGATE THE POSSIBILITY OF C-54'S. HIS REASON FOR PLACING THE C-54 IN LAST PRIORITY IS THAT HE IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE AVAILABILITY OF SPARE PARTS AND THE DIFFICULTY OF MAINTENANCE. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT IF THERE WERE ANY POSSIBILITIES OF OBTAINING CARGO-TYPE HELICOPTERS OR C-54'S, HE WOULD SEND CAPTAIN ALIOU TRAORE, VICE COMMANDER OF THE MALIAN AIR FORCE, TO THE UNITED STATES TO INVESTIGATE THE MATTER.

4. I SAID THAT I KNEW OF NO SOURCE OF FINANCING FOR A C-130, PARTICULARLY OF THAT LEVEL OF MAGNITUDE. I SAID, HOWEVER, THAT I WOULD RAISE THE QUESTION IN WASHINGTON AND ALSO INQUIRE AS TO THE AVAILABILITY OF HELICOPTERS AND C-54'S AND THE PROCEDURES FOR BIDDING ON THEM.

5. DOUKARA SAID THAT HE ASSUMED THAT NOW THAT THE MALI-UPPER VOLTA BORDER DISPUTE WAS QTE PRACTICALLY SETTLED END QTE, THERE WILL BE NO DIFFICULTY IN OBTAINING AN EXPORT LICENSE PROVIDED MALI COULD COME UP WITH THE NECESSARY FINANCING. HE REITERATED MALI'S NEEDS FOR AIRCRAFT OF THIS SORT IN TERMS THAT ARE FAMILIAR TO THE DEPARTMENT, I.E. THE NECESSITY FOR EMERGENCY TRANSPORT TO THE PRIMITIVE AIRFIELD IN MALI'S VITH REGION.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: I WOULD APPRECIATE BEING ADVISED AS TO:
(A) ANY POSSIBILITY OF FINANCING FOR A C-130; (B) AVAILABILITY AND PROCEDURES FOR PROCUREMENT OF CARGO-TYPE SURPLUS HELICOPTERS, AS WELL AS POSSIBILITY OF FINANCING THESE; (C) AVAILABILITY, PROCEDURES FOR PROCUREMENT AND AVAILABILITY OF SPARE PARTS FOR SURPLUS C-54'S, AND ALSO POSSIBILITY OF FINANCING THESE; AND
(D) ANY OTHER COMMENTS THE DEPARTMENT MIGHT HAVE ON MEETING MALI'S REQUIREMENTS FOR CARGO-TYPE AIRLIFT FOR THE VITH REGION.
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